other major FCV tobacco producing countries for the last three years is as under :

Country	Average yield : kgs/per acre 1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (prov.)
India	409	416	409
Brazil	754	722	723
Canada	1018	1040	1044
USA	1069	896	996
Zimbabwe	1004	1066	988

(b) Steps taken to enhance production and productivity of tobacco, *inter-alia*, include :

(i) Providing financial assistance for use of approved seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation equipments, suckercides and roof insulation of barns;

(ii) Supply of tarpaulin at subsidised rates for storage of cured leaf;

(iii) Co-ordination with Central Tobacco Research Institute for evolving high yielding disease resistant varieties;

(iv) Supply of coal for curing of tobacco;

(v) Conduct analysis of soil and water samples to advice farmers on its suitability for growing tobacco, and

(vi) Imparting training to farmers on improved package of practices.

Writting Off of Bad Debt

5665. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have written off crores of rupees in the public sector banks that have been lost by the banks over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, bank-wise, together with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a budget provision for the year 1996-97 has been made to make up the losses of such banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds distributed so far, bank-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Government had permitted in 1994-95 and 1995-96 the following nationalised banks to write off their accumulated losses against paid-up capital. In the case of Punjab National Bank (PNB), with the merger of Erstwhile New Bank of India (ENBI), the uncovered accumulated losses of ENBI as on the date of merger were set off against the capital of PNB. In the case of Bank of India and Dena Bank, they were allowed to set off their losses to enable them to clean up their balance-sheets for accessing the market for mobilising resources.

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Amount allowed to be written off (Rs. in crores)
1.	Punjab National Bank	425.43
2.	Bank of India	1369.91
3.	Dena Bank	136.29

(c) and (d). A Budget Provision of Rs. 1532 crores has been made during the year 1996-97 for writing off accumulated losses of Vijaya Bank, Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank. No funds have been sanctioned so far during 1996-97.

Declaration of Assets

5666. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for candidates to declare their assets before filing their nomination papers for election to Parliament and State Legislatures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such a legislation is likely to be brought before parliament; and

(d) the steps the Government have taken so far for checking corruption among the elected representatives of the people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The proposed Lokpal Bill, 1996 would be a measure to check corruption.

Registration of Patent

5667. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of patents registered on an average in a year in the country ;

(b) the number of patents registered during each of last three years; and

(c) the number of patents de-registered during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor ?